What is claimed is:

1.   A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding EIF2C1, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule encoding EIF2C1 and inhibits the expression of EIF2C1.

2.   The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

3.   The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has a sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 84, 86, 87 or 88.

4.   The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

5.   The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6.   The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

7.   The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

8.   The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

9.   The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10.   The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

11.   A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion of an active site on a nucleic acid molecule encoding EIF2C1.

12. A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

14. The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

15. A method of inhibiting the expression of EIF2C1 in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of EIF2C1 is inhibited.

16. A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with EIF2C1 comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of EIF2C1 is inhibited.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is characterized by hypercholesterolemia.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is a hyperproliferative disorder.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the hyperproliferative disorder is cancer.

20. A method of modulating the process of RNA-mediated interference (RNAi) in a cell or animal comprising administering to said cell or animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of EIF2C1 is inhibited.